

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NASA-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
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S E C R E T STATE 162164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJECT: DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TRANET EQUIPMENT

REF: A. CANBERRA 4779, B. CANBERRA 4979

DOD HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE REFTELS; CLASSIFIED
PARAS INDICATED IN PARENS MAY BE SHARED ON CLASSIFIED BASIS
WITH GOA:

1. QUESTION: IS TRANET A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE
U.S.?

ANSWER (U) YES, TRANET IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE BOTH
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NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

2. QUESTION: ARE THERE ASPECTS OF TRANET THAT MUST REMAIN
CLASSIFIED?

ANSWER (S) ALL RAW DATA ACQUIRED BY THE TRANET NETWORK ARE
UNCLASSIFIED AND CAN BE FURNISHED TO ANY REQUESTOR. IN

DEVELOPING THE DATA, DOD DEFINES THE PRECISE ORBITS OF TWO NAVY SATELLITES, WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL, AND

UTILIZES A MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF THE EARTH'S GRAVITY WHICH IS ALSO CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL. SOME APPLICATIONS OF TRANET'S UNCLASSIFIED DATA ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND MUST REMAIN PROTECTED.

3. QUESTION: HAS TRANET BEEN THE TOPIC OF CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS?

ANSWER (U) WHETHER TRANET HAS EVER BEEN A TOPIC OF CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. SINCE THESE TRACKING NETWORK STATIONS WERE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE US NAVY TRANSIT PROGRAM DURING THE 1960'S IT IS PROBABLE THAT CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE CONCERNED THE TRANSIT PROGRAM FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NAVIGATION. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE TRANSIT PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED. THEREFORE, FURTHER RESEARCH WILL BE REQUIRED HERE BEFORE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE QUESTION OF CONGRESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS CAN BE PROVIDED.

4. QUESTION: WHAT IS TRANET?

ANSWER (U) TRANET IS A NETWORK OF 15 SEMIPERMANENT TRACKING STATIONS (SPACED ABOUT THE GLOBE) WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO
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OBSERVE AND TRACK DOPPLER EQUIPPED SATELLITES. THE STATION IS EQUIPPED WITH PASSIVE RADIO RECEIVING EQUIPMENT OPERATING ON TWO SETS OF FREQUENCIES USED TO TRACK GEODETIC SATELLITES CONTAINING DOPPLER EMITTERS. EACH TRANET STATION CONTAINS AN ASSORTMENT OF STANDARD ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS TELETYPE COMMUNICATION TO TRANSMIT DATA TO THE COMPUTING FACILITY AT DMA.

5. QUESTION: WHAT IS TRANET'S PRODUCT?

ANSWER (U) THE PRODUCT OF THE TRANET NETWORK IS THE PRECISE EPHEMERIS (ORBITS) FOR THE NAVY NAVIGATION SATELLITES AND OTHER SATELLITES WITH DOPPLER EMITTING EQUIPMENT. IN THE POINT POSITIONING MODE, THE PRECISE SATELLITE EPHEMERIDES PLUS THE GEOCEIVER (PORTABLE GROUND TRACKING EQUIPMENT) TRACKING DATA ARE USED TO ESTABLISH PRECISE POINT POSITIONS OF THE GEOCEIVERS IN SUPPORT OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING.

6. QUESTION: WHO BENEFITS MOST FROM TRANET STATION 112?

ANSWER (U) THE RESULTS OF STATION 112 ARE OF MUTUAL BENE-

FIT TO BOTH THE US AND AUSTRALIA UNDER THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE US AND AUSTRALIA OVER THE YEARS; IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR US TO DETERMINE

PRECISELY WHO GETS GREATER BENEFIT. PRECISE DOPPLER POSITIONING USING THE GEOCEIVERS IN SUPPORT OF SURVEYS AND MAPPING COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AUSTRALIA WITHOUT THE PRECISE EPHEMERIS FURNISHED BY THE US. THE NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF TRANET STATIONS WORLDWIDE PROVIDE MORE ACCURATE EPHEMERIDES WHICH IN TURN PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE ACCURATE POINT POSITIONS.

7. QUESTION: DOES TRANET HAVE A SIGNIFICANT DEFENSE APPLICATION?

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ANSWER (S) TRANET HAS SIGNIFICANT CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED DEFENSE APPLICATIONS.

8. QUESTION: SHOULD STATION 112 BE CLASSIFIED TO PROTECT THE PRODUCT?

ANSWER (S) THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE TRANET STATION WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE AND WOULD HAVE POSSIBLE SERIOUS POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS WITH REGARD TO TRANET STATIONS LOCATED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS DMA'S INTENTION TO EXPAND THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM; I.E., HAVE ORGANIZATIONS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM BY MANNING THE TRANET STATIONS. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE MUST RESTRICT KNOWLEDGE OF SOME DEFENSE APPLICATIONS OF THE PRODUCT TO THOSE WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW TO PROTECT SOME DEFENSE APPLICATIONS OF THE PRODUCT. WE DO NOT SEE THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE STATION AS A SOLUTION.

9. (U) REGARDING THE ADDITIONAL CAPABILITIES OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT, THE MODERNIZED TRANET 11 (UPDATE) SYSTEMS ARE ONE-OPERATOR SYSTEMS IN THAT TWO TECHNICIANS WORKING A NORMAL SEVEN-DAY WEEK CAN: (1) PROGRAM THE EQUIPMENT FOR A 24 HOUR DATA ACQUISITION CYCLE, AND (2) INSPECT AND TRANSMIT ALL DATA ACQUIRED DURING THE PREVIOUS 24 HOUR CYCLE. IN ADDITION, THESE NEW EQUIPMENTS, HAVING MODERNIZED ELECTRONICS, ARE MUCH MORE SENSITIVE TO THE SIGNALS OF APPROACHING SATELLITES WITH EARLIER QUOTE LOCK-ON UNQUOTE AND FULL STRENGTH SIGNAL ACQUISITION DURING THE TIME THE SATELLITE IS QUOTE IN VIEW UNQUOTE. A MAJOR NEW ADVANTAGE IS THAT THESE MODERNIZED EQUIPMENTS WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO SIMULTANEOUSLY TRACK TWO DISTINCT SATELLITES, PROVIDED THE
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SATELLITES ARE TRANSMITTING ON DIFFERENT FREQUENCIES. THE EQUIPMENT WILL ALSO BE FULLY CAPABLE OF INSTANTANEOUSLY SEARCHING OR SWEEPING TO A NEW APPROACHING SATELLITE WHEN TRACKING OF A DEPARTING SATELLITE IS COMPLETED. IN SUMMARY, THE NEW EQUIPMENT REQUIRES LESS MANPOWER, COLLECTS MORE AND

BETTER QUALITY DATA, AND HAS A LOWER FAILURE RATE. THE FUNCTION, HOWEVER, REMAINS UNCHANGED.

10. REGARDING A NEW AGREEMENT, DMA IS RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA BUT SUGGESTS DELAYING A SUBMISSION UNTIL THE DETAILS CAN BE WORKED OUT HERE WITH COL HILLIER. IN OUR VIEW A NEW AGREEMENT APPEARS APPROPRIATE, BUT WE FAIL TO SEE HOW IT WILL ANSWER THOSE WHO MIGHT ELECT TO CHARGE THAT WE HAVE FAILED TO FULLY INFORM THEM ABOUT THIS SYSTEM IN THE PAST.
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